

are the hearts that long for some kind word, some token of friendship, a hand grasp that is expressive of tender love, some little gift that has in it the heart of the donor. The following beautiful, touching story illustrates how we may lend a helping hand, direct the thoughts of even the thoughtless and the hard hearted heavenward, and perchance lead them in the way of life everlasting: A young girl on a railroad train gave a bunch of roses to a little cripple. The child held them to her lips and pressed them to her heart, and fell asleep. The train neared its destination. The father came from the smoking car. At sight of his little one lying peacefully with her head against the stranger and the roses in her hand, he said, in a voice full of feeling, "I am not a prayin' man, but the Lord is blessin' rest on you for your kindness to my motherless bairn." The child roused as she was taken in her father's arms, and said, "I've-been-in-heaven-pa; I've-got-some-roses." There was mist in other eyes beside the father's, and more than one heard a divine voice saying, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these . . . ye have done it unto me."

#### Why Is It?

Last week reference was made in these columns to a very interesting meeting held in the Congregational church this city, Sunday evening July 10. We refer to this meeting again for the purpose of comparison. Mr. Wilbur, representing the Y. M. C. A., is a young man of ability, consecrated to his work, and his labor of love among the soldiers in camp life merits the highest commendation of all Christ-loving people. The story of camp life as he saw and experienced it was touchingly told, and the address in itself was an appeal to the people for aid with which to prosecute the work of the Association among the soldiers. Here was a splendid opportunity to consecrate money to a holy and Christ-like work, and yet with an audience representing thousands of dollars, the net result of the collection was less than *fifteen dollars in cash*. Why so small an amount for so good a purpose? *Why* so small? Who can tell? Did these people have no money? They certainly did. They are not poor people. On July 4, the town represented by this audience, blew hundreds of dollars into the air to no purpose whatever. And when on July 14, in the afternoon, the news flashed over the wire that Santiago had surrendered, the whistles blew, the bells on the fire house, court house and school house peeled forth the joyful news, while from almost every window and balcony floated the stars and stripes; all of this no doubt was perfectly proper and within the bounds of the spirit of true patriotism. But in a very few minutes the people who had no money to carry forward the work of Christian education among the soldiers in camp life, raised *thirty dollars* for the purchase of ammunition with which to fire a large cannon in the court yard of this city. How are we to account for this strange inconsistency?

Twice as much money to blow into the air in smoke as was contributed for the religious instruction and the moral protection of the young men who have gone to the front to fight the battle for human liberty! Do we need any better evidence of the depravity of human nature and the need of regeneration than this strange incongruity? Who can explain why an intelligent people, a people who are supposed to know their duty, will contribute twice as much money for that which can profit no one, and only endanger life, as they will for a cause which even the worldly man must acknowledge to be a noble work and worthy of support? There is something radically wrong and that "something" is downright selfishness. People have not yet learned the sweet lesson of self-sacrifice; they have not been with Jesus and learned of him what it means to live; they have no proper conception of the duties, the responsibilities and the destinies of human existence; they have not been touched by the Spirit of the Almighty; they have seemingly not yet learned why God has given them life with all its powers and possibilities; their hearts are not consecrated to the service of God and man, and hence have no conception of the right use of the means with which God has blest them; they live in darkness; self-gratification is their highest ambition in life. What they need is to be born into the kingdom of higher living, to be emptied of self and filled with the spirit life, then will they cease spending more money for tobacco, chewing gum, amusements, and all manner of sinful indulgencies, than they contribute to the work of Christian education and to the forward march of the chariot wheel of our glorious Christianity.

#### Unconditional Surrender

The memorable words of General Grant in front of Richmond thirty-three years ago have been taken up by General Shafter commanding the American forces against the Spanish army in front of Santiago, Cuba. He too demanded an "unconditional surrender," and tho the Spanish commander persisted with a skill worthy of a nobler cause, he finally yielded and no less than 20,000 soldiers with their weapons of warfare, and 5,000 miles of territory fall into the hands of the American army. This is the third great victory of the war, which, let us hope and pray may speedily come to an end. May not all Christian people learn a very practical lesson from this demand for an unconditional surrender? It is just what God asks of each one of us, and what he absolutely demands, an "unconditional surrender." There is nothing to be kept back, no "Spanish honor" to be maintained, it is a complete surrender of self to the God who redeemed us. Worldly honor, selfishness, homage to intellect, pride, everything that takes up arms against God must be yielded up and our bodies presented a living sacrifice on the altar of redemption. There is a large army

of professedly Christian people, an army outnumbering ten to one, the Spanish army in Cuba, whose surrender to God is as yet incomplete, and the result is they are spiritually starving. They hold dear and hug to their bosom some favored sin which they are unwilling to give up. They insist on surrendering with the "honors of war," a demand which is not recognized by the captain of our salvation. There must be a complete, unconditional surrender of body, soul and spirit. Every carnal weapon of warfare must be laid down; the old uniform must be dispensed with; the filthy rags of self-righteousness so dear to the unregenerate heart must be given up; self, the god at whose shrine the millions worship, must be a "fallen Dagon which shall not be restored," and the new recruit, thus stripped of all carnality, puts on the whole armor of God and as a Christian soldier enters the army of the Lord to engage in the deadly conflict which in the end must bring this world at the feet of Jesus.

#### Repairing the Altar

The story of last Sabbath's lesson, Elijah on Carmel, is yet fresh in the minds of our readers. When it came Elijah's turn to prepare for the sacrifice, after the miserable failure of the prophets of Baal, the first thing he did was to repair the broken down altar. That was the proper place to begin; it is the place where all true reformation must begin. There are many broken down altars all over this land that need repair. Once God had a temple in your heart from which went up the voice of prayer, but that altar is now broken down. Thousands of homes, once hallowed by the voice of prayer and made sacred by the reading of God's word, are now godless homes. The fire of love and devotion are no longer burning and Christ ceases to have an abiding place there. If the former blessings are again to return to these homes and hearts, if God is again to lift the light of his countenance upon them, then it will be necessary to build again the old altar that the voice of prayer may once more be heard, and prayerless hearts reconsecrated, born again as it were of the divine love.

Another lesson from this broken down altar. Elijah had to prepare it, God would not do that for him, as he will not for us. The prophet had to get ready the bullock and have it placed upon the altar and slain, he must pray for the fire to come down from heaven to consume it. All this he must do because he *can* do it, and therefore God *will* not. But to send the fire from heaven, that remains for God to do. It is so in our religious life. We must erect the altar, place ourselves upon it, present ourselves a living sacrifice. But having done all this God will send down the fire from heaven, the Holy Spirit, and leave the glowing flames of love and devotion and holy service.